

**OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018
NEWSLETTER
CHEROKEE TRAIL GOOD SAMS**

Sorry that the newsletter has to be a quarterly one this time. Things have just been crazy and time has flown by so quickly.

Most of our October was spent 'on the road' completing our 3500+ mile, 8 week trip. We returned home to find out that our longtime member, C. G. Smith had been found in his home, by his son unresponsive after suffering a fall and hitting his head on his nightstand. He was taken from his home by ambulance to the hospital where he stayed a few days, then to a nursing home, and back to the hospital, where he passed away. Never fully recovering from the fall. There was a time when we didn't know which hospital or nursing home he was in and that caused us not to send out an email about his fall. I finally went to his home, and left a message, and his son called me back the evening that CG had died. He always enjoyed camping with his wife, Frances, until she passed, and had recently been working on getting his motor home up to shape, so he and his friend, Cathy, could do some camping with us. They enjoyed driving to wherever we were camping to spend the day with us on Saturday's, and came to our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners as well. If I remember right, he and Cathy came to our Soup Lunch in January and he always enjoyed spending time with what he called his other family. We appreciated Don & Joyce making the trip from the Jackson TN area for the family visitation and staying over for the funeral. There were 5 of us attending his visitation and funeral. It looked good for our members to be dressed in our club shirts, and wearing our vests to his funeral. We hated to let someone as sweet and kind as CG go, but, we also know that God knows best.

We no sooner got finished with the funeral and burial of CG, than we got word of the deteriorating condition of our sweet, Shirley Gasaway. Sandra & Doug went to visit her and spent some time with her. I spent the afternoon and evening there, as the decision was made to move her to the Hospice Unit at Erlanger. A couple days later, she passed. I'm sure David was there to greet her as she stepped into her new heavenly home! She had previously spent several hours in a deep sleep, but when she awoke, she said she had been spending time and talking with David and her mother. She was ready for the transition, but we, as her dear friends and chapter members, were not really ready to let her go. There were 7 of our chapter members who attended her funeral. Although we know that she's much better off, the fact that she will not be in our presence anymore, is tough. Shirley & David Gasaway put their heart, soul, blood, sweat and tears into founding Cherokee Trail Good Sams, and keeping it going. She will be missed.

We also lost our longtime friend, Vic Sands, who for many years was the Master of Ceremonies at our Tennessee State Rallies. He entertained across the region at several other state rallies with his comedy, and his beautiful singing voice. He finally lost his 3 year battle with brain cancer. Butch had bronchitis and didn't feel like making the trip to Nashville for the family visitation and Celebration of Life, but Anita and I represented Cherokee Trail. We drove up the day of the visitation and spent the night, and went to the church service for Vic.

That made 3 funerals in a matter of 10 days, so to say we were in a 'fog' is an understatement!

The November camp out was cancelled, due to Don & Joyce making several trips back and forth from the Jackson TN area to the visitations and funerals, and they did the same thing for Vic as well. That's what true Good Sam folks do. We are all part of a wonderful camping family, and it's the least we can do to pay our respects. Our plans to attend the Winter Good Sam Rally in

Eustus Florida went down the tubes as well, since our coach is in the shop for it's end of year oil change, front end alignment, and we had new toppers put on as well. Samuel & Beverly were going to have their family up in November, and they are heading to visit them for Christmas so, the November campout was just chucked. There will be no Christmas dinner for the chapter

either, as families will be out of town, and no telling what the weather will be like during that time. We have, however, been invited to attend the Christmas celebrations with 2 of the other Tennessee chapters that like to camp, and we will be attending those during the holiday season.

What the future holds for Cherokee Trail, only God knows. We will keep on keeping on. We have several prospects for new members, so we always hope that works out as well.

The 2019 roster has been sent to the State Secretary for our chapter, along with the part of our dues that goes to the State. For several of you, this will be the last newsletter you will be receiving, and you will be dropped from the chapter member listings.

We send our gratitude to our Veterans who served this great nation, and to our first responders who are always there, to help us. They run into the danger when others run away from it. We are blessed and thankful everyday for our fellow Good Sam members, as well as those brave men & women mentioned. We owe them so very much!!

SUNSHINE LADY REPORT

Please keep the families that have recently lost loved ones in your thoughts and prayers. Ron Bowhall, Gary Inman, CG Smith, and Shirley Gasaway. All families face tough times adjusting to losing their loved ones.

Sandra Ellis will be having surgery early in December, and has a tough road ahead of her. Please keep her and Doug and their family in your prayers, as well.

Roy & Wanda Sanderson are both having a rough time. They have decided that they are going to have to give up camping, and have their motor home up for sale. It's just too tough for Roy to try to handle and drive in his failing health. We surely will miss them!!

**We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish everyone a blessed Christmas season.
Be safe wherever you roam.**

**Brenda Latham
Wagonmaster
Cherokee Trail Good Sam**